

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 1056. A bill to establish a commission to develop legislation designed to reform tax policy and entitlement benefit programs and ensure a sound fiscal future for the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1057. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOND, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 1058. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S.J. Res. 16. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to parental rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. Res. 149. A resolution expressing solidarity with the writers, journalists, and librarians of Cuba on World Press Freedom Day and calling for the immediate release of citizens of Cuba imprisoned for exercising rights associated with freedom of the press; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Res. 150. A resolution commemorating and celebrating the lives of Officer Kristine Marie Fairbanks, Deputy Anne Marie Jackson, and Sergeant Nelson Kai Ng who gave their lives in the service of the people of Washington State in 2008; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BUNNING (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. REID, Mr. CORKER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 151. A resolution designates a national day of remembrances on October 30, 2009, for nuclear weapons program workers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 254

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 254, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home infusion therapy under the Medicare Program.

S. 476

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 476, a bill to amend title 10,

United States Code, to reduce the minimum distance of travel necessary for reimbursement of covered beneficiaries of the military health care system for travel for specialty health care.

S. 484

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 484, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 511

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 511, a bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an exemption of pharmacies and pharmacists from certain Medicare accreditation requirements in the same manner as such exemption applies to certain professionals.

S. 529

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 529, a bill to assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of countries within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations.

S. 535

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 535, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 546

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation.

S. 611

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 611, a bill to provide for the reduction of adolescent pregnancy, HIV rates, and other sexually transmitted diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 614

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 614, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots ("WASP").

S. 645

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 645, a bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to modify the Department of Defense share of expenses under the National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

S. 653

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 653, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner, and for other purposes.

S. 663

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 663, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II.

S. 693

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 693, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for the training of graduate medical residents in preventive medicine.

S. 733

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 733, a bill to ensure the continued and future availability of life saving trauma health care in the United States and to prevent further trauma center closures and downgrades by assisting trauma centers with uncompensated care costs, core mission services, and emergency needs.

S. 738

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide certain substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 751

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 751, a bill to establish a revenue source for fair elections financing of Senate campaigns by providing an excise tax on amounts paid pursuant to contracts with the United States Government.

S. 752

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 752, a bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes.

S. 769

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 769, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and increase utilization of, bone mass measurement benefits under the Medicare part B program.

S. 775

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 775, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the availability of appropriated funds for international partnership contact activities conducted by the National Guard, and for other purposes.

S. 823

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) were added as cosponsors of S. 823, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a 5-year carryback of operating losses, and for other purposes.

S. 908

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 908, a bill to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to enhance United States diplomatic efforts with respect to Iran by expanding economic sanctions against Iran.

S. 938

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 938, a bill to require the President to call a White House Conference on Children and Youth in 2010.

S. 943

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 943, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to permit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to waive the lifecycle greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements for renewable fuel production, and for other purposes.

S. 950

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 950, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize physical therapists to evaluate and treat Medicare beneficiaries without a requirement for a physician referral, and for other purposes.

S. 957

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 957, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that victims of public health emer-

gencies have meaningful and immediate access to medically necessary health care services.

S. 973

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 973, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 979

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 979, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a nationwide health insurance purchasing pool for small businesses and the self-employed that would offer a choice of private health plans and make health coverage more affordable, predictable, and accessible.

S. 1012

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1012, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Mother's Day.

S. 1023

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1023, a bill to establish a non-profit corporation to communicate United States entry policies and otherwise promote leisure, business, and scholarly travel to the United States.

S. 1026

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1026, a bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve procedures for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed service voters, and for other purposes.

S. 1027

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1027, a bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to clarify that fundamental exchange-rate misalignment by any foreign nation is actionable under United States countervailing and antidumping duty laws, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 15, a joint resolu-

tion proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 1058

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1058 proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1059

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1059 intended to be proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1060

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1060 intended to be proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1079

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1079 proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1091

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1091 intended to be proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1095

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1095 intended to be proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1096

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri

(Mrs. McCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1096 intended to be proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1099

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1099 intended to be proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1106

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1106 intended to be proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1107

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1107 proposed to H.R. 627, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DODD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. NELSON, of Florida, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 1038. A bill to improve agricultural job opportunities, benefits, and security for aliens in the United States and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I believe it is fair to say that there is a farm emergency in this country. Some of it is caused by drought, including out West where California has had, for 3 years, a very serious drought. But most of it is caused by the absence of farm labor—labor to help plant, prune, and harvest.

Many of us have listened to farm bureaus throughout the country, spoken with farmers who are losing land, fallowing land, and leasing land abroad. I think the time has come to do something about it.

Today, with 16 cosponsors, I am introducing an agricultural worker bill

known as AgJOBS. This bill is cosponsored by Senators LEAHY, SCHUMER, KENNEDY, KOHL, BOXER, DODD, LIEBERMAN, BINGAMAN, FEINGOLD, MURRAY, KERRY, BILL NELSON, KAUFMAN, CASEY, Cantwell, and Levin. It would provide farmers with the stable, legal workforce they deserve by reforming the broken H-2A seasonal worker program and offering a pathway to citizenship for hard-working, law-abiding immigrants already employed or who have been employed on American farms.

This bill is supported by more than 200 agricultural coalition and immigration reform groups throughout the Nation.

Since I last came to the floor to talk about a solution to this crisis, it has only grown. The bill is necessary, and I believe Congress must act now to save America's agriculture industry.

Today across the United States, there are not enough agricultural workers to do the pruning, picking, packing, and harvesting of our country's crops. With an inadequate supply of workers, farmers from Maine to California, from Washington State to Georgia, have watched their produce rot in fields, and have been forced to fallow close to half a million acres of land, and billions of dollars are being drained out of our economy as a result.

Farmers are downsizing their operations. Many are buying or leasing land in Mexico. Others are going out of business. Quite clearly, the labor situation facing the American farmer is an emergency.

So some ask: Why don't American farmers hire Americans to do their work? The unemployment rate is high. People are looking for jobs. So why don't they hire Americans?

The fact is, they have tried and tried and tried. But there are very few Americans who are willing to take the job in a hot field, doing backbreaking labor, in temperatures that often exceed 100 degrees. That is a fact.

The other fact is that immigrant workers are the backbone of America's agricultural industry—a huge industry and a proud industry, which is now dying due to the lack of steady labor supply.

Farmers are departing the country in order to stay in business, leaving devastated farm communities behind. In California, in the Great Central Valley, farmers who once tended "America's breadbasket" are now standing in bread lines, with unemployment rates in their communities that are as high as 45 percent. Topsoil from fallowed land turning into dust now blows up in sandstorms and has caused periodic shutdowns of Interstate 5, the State's main north-south freeway.

As a result of Congress's inaction, between 2007 and 2008—1 year—1.56 million acres of farmland, once rich with crops, are now dormant. That is 1.5 million acres dormant in a year. In California alone, in the past 5 years, that amount—1.5 million acres—of production has been lost.

American farmers have moved at least 84,155 acres of production to Mexico. This is what we know of: Over 84,000 acres of farm production now in Mexico. This has resulted in the growth of farm labor jobs in Mexico; namely, 22,285 jobs to cultivate crops that vary in diversity from avocados to green onions to watermelons.

This shortage of workers is devastating American agriculture, and we need to wake up and understand what is happening. In the next 1 to 2 years, the United States stands to lose \$5 billion to \$9 billion in agricultural sales to foreign competition if Congress does not act to provide a workforce for the American farming community.

California has already lost almost \$1 billion from 2005 to 2006. It is estimated we will lose between \$1.7 and \$3.1 billion in the next year. The California farm industry—the largest in America—was almost a \$40 billion-a-year industry. It is deteriorating every year.

We are witnessing nothing less than the slow vanishing of American agriculture.

Ayron Moiola, the executive director of the Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association, predicts that California's asparagus crops will disappear completely in the Imperial Valley if their demand for specialized asparagus planters and harvesters is not met.

Colorado farmers have estimated their State's fruit and vegetable industry will disappear completely in the next 5 to 10 years without some program to provide a sustainable workforce.

As of February 2008, 35 to 45 New Hampshire farm operations have been at risk of going out of business or being forced to severely cut back operations due to labor shortages.

This reduction in farm production would result in an estimated loss of 22,000 acres of farmland and \$58 million of agricultural production for New Hampshire alone. In addition, over 600 full-time farm jobs and 4,300 jobs in agriculture-related businesses could be in jeopardy.

I say to the Presiding Officer, I hear this from your apple growers in New York, and I hear it from the dairy industry throughout America.

The situation is dire from coast to coast, and urgent action is required to halt these trends. I do not think we can afford to lose our entire agricultural industry because this has always been a central and sustainable part of our national economy. Our food is clean; there are strong pesticide controls in this country. I think most of us believe we would much prefer to buy American produce than foreign produce. Yet we may not have that opportunity.

When farmers suffer, there is a ripple effect felt throughout the economy: in farm equipment manufacturing, packaging, processing, transportation, marketing, lending, and insurance. Jobs are being lost, and our economy is going to decline further as a result. Low-producing farms mean a lowered